

**Moscow bogged down on emigration bill**

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament was deadlocked on Monday over a bill to guarantee the right to travel abroad, with many deputies suggesting authorities could not cope with a flood of tourists and would-be emigrants. A series of votes in the Supreme Soviet failed to secure passage of the emigration law despite two years of preparation by deputies and experts. Officials said the legislation would be considered again later in the week. "I am sure we will find a solution," Fikryat Tabayev, one of the authors of the law, told reporters. "This will probably involve adopting the law and giving the government time to prepare its implementation." The legislation, viewed as a key part of President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, has generated fears in Western Europe that waves of emigrants will flee the country's collapsing economy in search of work. It is also considered a benchmark in superpower ties as the United States and its allies have made the granting of trade benefits and credits contingent on its passage.

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**Kuwait will execute 'convicted spies'**

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's acting attorney-general said Monday anyone found guilty of espionage during Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate would be executed. Hamed Al Othman told reporters more than 200 people would be brought to trial soon on collaboration charges. He said anyone convicted of spying or "breaching the independence of the country, its unity or the safety of its territory" would be put to death in accordance with long-standing Kuwaiti laws. "He who is found to have harmed Kuwait's political, military and economic position will be punished by life sentence," he added. After the end of the Gulf war in February, the Kuwaitis detained hundreds of people, most of them Palestinians, on charges of collaborating with the occupation forces. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis, and many Kuwaitis accused some of the 400,000 Palestinians living in the emirate of supporting the occupation. Mr. Othman told reporters the general prosecution office was looking into 900 cases, including more than 200 of alleged collaboration.

**Jordan optimistic over Cairo meeting**

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday the first high-level meeting of the Arab League since the Gulf war could prove thorny but Jordan hopes it would help to repair differences created by the Gulf crisis.

The meeting of Arab foreign ministers and other representatives in Cairo Wednesday is an important step towards beginning new inter-Arab cooperation, Mr. Masri told Radio Jordan.

"The Arab situation is unstable, there are lots of tough divisions ... I hope the ministers would succeed, even if it is gradual, in restoring links between Arab countries," he said.

**Spain: EC must attend conference**

MADRID (R) — Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said Monday that the European Community (EC) must take part in any international Middle East peace conference. "Our view is that there should be a conference and that the EC must take part in it," Mr. Ordóñez told reporters at Madrid airport on his way to Brussels for a meeting of EC foreign ministers to discuss the Middle East and European issues. The EC was the biggest supplier and customer of the Arab countries and Israel, Mr. Ordóñez said. "Therefore the participation of Europe would be the consequence of a positive reality and would help to find solutions in these decisive moments."

**Bessmertnykh cancels visit to Lebanon**

BEIRUT (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh has cancelled a scheduled visit to Lebanon, official sources said Monday. They said Soviet Ambassador to Lebanon Gennady Illichev told Lebanese Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Suleim Chammas that Mr. Bessmertnykh would not visit Beirut as part of his current Middle East tour. The sources quoted Mr. Illichev late on Sunday as saying the Lebanon trip was called off because of "unexpected circumstances." They gave no further details.

**Mubarak to visit U.K. in July**

LONDON (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will make a state visit to Britain in July, Buckingham Palace announced Monday. Mr. Mubarak and his wife will stay at the palace during their stay, from July 23 to 26, the palace said.

**Court charges Bhutto with misusing funds**

LAHORE (R) — A Pakistani court charged on Monday former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto with misuse of secret funds, her lawyer Aitzaz Ahsan said. Mrs. Bhutto denied the charges, he said: "I shall never give details of the disbursement of the fund even under the pressure and threat of disqualification as such disclosure would not be in the national interest," he quoted her as saying. Mrs. Bhutto, dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan last August, faces eight charges of abusing her position in her 20 months as prime minister.

**Croatian Serbs want union with Serbia**

BELGRADE (AP) — Ethnic Serbs in Croatia have voted overwhelmingly to join their strongholds in the restive republic to the largest republic of Serbia, a result of a referendum showed Monday. The preliminary returns from Sunday's balloting in western Croatia showed that 90 per cent of those taking part had voted for union with Serbia, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية العربية الرأي

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## Israeli peace crusader presses campaign with fasting, faces jail

TEL AVIV (AP) — While the superpower diplomats shuttle about the Middle East trying to conjure up peace talks, a very different sort of peace initiative is on daily display in a Tel Aviv park.

Abie Nathan is fasting again for the right to talk to Yasser Arafat.

Lunatic, self-publicist, crackpot — Mr. Nathan has been called many things by his detractors in the 25 years since he piloted a rattletrap airplane to Egypt in search of someone to talk peace with.

But time, and Mr. Nathan's charm and tenacity, have softened even his harshest critics, to the extent that he has become a national treasure, known to all as just plain Abie.

"Abie, you're number one," a man in jogging shorts calls out to him at Medina Circle, the park where he spends a couple of hours a day meeting admirers and bringing his hunger strike to public notice.

His latest fast, begun April 28, aims to pressure the government into abolishing a 1986 law which bars Israelis from meeting Mr. Arafat and other Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

He spent four months in prison for meeting with Mr. Arafat in 1988. Although threatened with a one-year prison term if he repeated the offence, he went to see the PLO leader again in 1990.

Despite the prospect of going back to jail, Mr. Nathan says he'd do it again. "I will continue to violate the law," he says. "We have to speak to the people that represent the Palestinians."

## Kuwait: No rift over Gulf security

CAIRO (R) — Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah Monday dismissed reports of a dispute among Gulf Arab states over their post-Gulf war security plans.

"It is not true. There are no differences," Sheikh Salem said, responding to a question on whether the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) disagreed on regional security.

Cairo's semi-official daily Al Ahram Sunday quoted U.S. media reports that Kuwait and Bahrain were in disagreement with other GCC members over future security. Both countries favoured U.S. rather than Arab protection, Al Ahram reported.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Sheikh Salem refused to answer a question about reported differences between Egypt and Gulf states over who should provide security in the wake of the Gulf war.

In a surprise move, Mr. Mubarak announced on Wednesday that he had ordered the withdrawal of some 35,000 Egyptian troops who took part in the U.S.-led Operation Desert Storm in which allied

period. There is no other way." Mr. Nathan launched his exotic brand of diplomacy in 1966, when he flew solo to Egypt hoping to meet President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

Although Mr. Nathan turned him away, his boldness made him an Israeli folk hero.

But when he tried the stunt again several years later, Israeli authorities were less amused. They jailed him for 40 days for unauthorised travel to an enemy state.

His next move was to anchor a small ship off the Tel Aviv coast and broadcast pop music and peace messages. "The Voice of Peace" radio station is still going strong after 20 years.

His first fast for peace went on for 15 days. The next two lasted 40 days each. The fourth, in 1978, lasted 45 days.

In 1979, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty, and Mr. Nathan turned his attention to the Palestinians. He says he has travelled 12 times to meet with PLO officials.

The Israeli government regards the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation, unfit to play any negotiating role. Mr. Nathan replies: "all over the world people speak to the enemy to make peace. Even we spoke to the Germans."

At the hotel where he lives, as well as the Medina Circle, he receives a constant stream of well-wishers — writers, politicians friends from the pro-crusade days when he owned a popular Tel Aviv restaurant.

One of his visitors was the speaker of parliament, Dov Shilonsky. Mr. Shilonsky firmly supports the ban on contacts with the

forces recaptured Kuwait from the Iraqi army.

Diplomats said Mr. Mubarak's decision followed a dispute with the Gulf states over who should protect the oil-rich region in the future. They sid Cairos as the new Arab League secretary general.

Mr. Abdul Meguid will replace Chadi Klibi, a Tunisian, who resigned during the Gulf crisis when the league failed to heal Arab divisions.

Abie Nathan

PLO, but feels duty-bound, as representative of an institution, to call on a man who, from the opposite direction, has himself become an institution.

A delegation of Israeli Arabs arrives at Medina Circle to express support. They are joined by a group of Jewish leftists from Tel Aviv University.

A short, impish-faced young man shows up, removes his Walkman earphones, and delivers a brief speech. He is in the army, and wants to thank Mr. Nathan for his peace efforts and for "The Voice of Peace," whose music he grew up with.

After he leaves, Mr. Nathan leans back in his chair. He is a short, bespectacled man with graying temples, whose speech still bears the lilt of his native India. In the second week of his water-only fast, he looks pale and tired. He said late last week that he had lost more than 6.75 kilograms so far.

"I see these boys endangering their lives, and here I am, I'm 64 years old, I've had a full, beautiful life. I have nothing to complain about... now how can I sit down in my room, watch TV, eat my favourite ice cream and yak about peace, and not risk my life?"

He is in Cairo to take part in a meeting of Arab ministers on Wednesday which is due to elect Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmar Abdul Meguid as the new Arab League secretary general.

Mr. Abdul Meguid will replace Chadi Klibi, a Tunisian, who resigned during the Gulf crisis when the league failed to heal Arab divisions.

### Kaddoumi to meet Bouez in Cairo

TUNIS (R) — Farouk Kadoumi, chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department, will confer later this month in Cairo with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, a PLO spokesman said on Monday.

They will meet during the Arab League ministerial conference due to open in the Egyptian capital on May 15.

The meeting was arranged after Lebanese mediator Mohsen Ibrahim held a series of contacts with Arab leaders, including the PLO, to discuss the disarmament of Palestinian guerrillas in Lebanon.

## Mystery shrouds Saudis' Jerusalem visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A top Saudi Arabian official has booked a hotel room in Arab Jerusalem for later this week for what would be an unprecedented Saudi visit to the Israeli-occupied territories, Israeli Television reported Sunday.

The hotel manager said the reservation could be a mistake and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's senior aide Avi Pazner claimed no knowledge of such plans.

Yet the mysterious report coincided with other progress towards Middle East peace talks made during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's current shuttle in the region.

Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf states said this weekend they

had agreed to break a longstanding boycott of the Jewish state and sit at a peace conference — albeit as observers.

The television identified the Saudi official expected in occupied Jerusalem Wednesday as a brother of Saudi King Fahd, Prince Turki Ben Abdal Aziz, who is also a former Saudi deputy defence minister.

It said Prince Turki would be on a private visit but would likely discuss economic aid programmes with Palestinian leaders. Mr. Baker is expected to meet Israeli leaders on the same day.

The television quoted only unidentified sources in the occupied territories and added that the Saudi prince would be travelling with a representative of the

Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank.

The report was unmentioned by later radio broadcasts and Shamer aide Pazner said only "I don't know anything about it."

Awni Inshewat, manager of the Seven Arches Hotel in Arab Jerusalem, confirmed there was a booking for Wednesday for Prince Turki. But he said the reservations were ordered two weeks ago by an "unidentified individual" and never confirmed.

Mr. Inshewat added that the hotel has in the past received mistaken bookings.

Saudi Arabia has been technically at war with Israel since its birth in 1948, and a visit by any of its leaders would be unprecedented.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

**PRAYER TIMES**

8:45	Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:23	Maghrib
28:49	Isha'

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary's...Church, Sweileh Tel. 810740.	Min./Max. temp.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 633785, 685326.	18 / 31
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	24 / 40
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	Deserts
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	19 / 34

### NIGHT DUTY

### AMMAN

Dr. Hanna Mansour

Dr. Mohammad Al Awad

Dr. Jamal Abu Baker

Dr. Nart Wreden

Fars pharmacy

Al Asmaa pharmacy

Nairoukh pharmacy

Al Salam pharmacy

Yacoub pharmacy

Stumeisan pharmacy

IRBID:

Dr. Latif Al Shabani

Al Shara's pharmacy

ZARQA:

Dr. Misbah Hijawi

Khalilah pharmacy

Jordan Valley

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 41. Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Food Control Centre

Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

Civil Defence Emergency

Rescue Police

Fire Dept.

Police Bank

Highway Police

Public Security Department

Traffic Police

Water and Sewerage

Complaints

Amman Municipality

Complaints

IRBID:

Overseas Calls

Car and Animal Telephone

Repairs

Abdali Telephone Repair

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan

Water Authority

Gasoline

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

Queen Alia International

Telephone Information

(directory assistance)

Overseas Calls

Car and Animal Telephone

Repairs

Abdali Telephone Repair

Jordan Television

Radio Jordan

Water Authority

Gasoline

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport

Emergency

Rescue

Police

Fire

Gasoline

Water Authority

Gasoline

# Home News

## Queen honours charity volunteer workers

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Monday attended a ceremony to honour members of the community involved in charity work, especially those supervising a charity fund raising contributions for the needy.

At a ceremony held at the Sulaiman School for Girls, the Queen distributed meritorial certificates to a group representing Ministry of Education schools whose staff and students have been active in raising contributions in the 1990/1991 scholastic year.

Addressing the ceremony was Dr. Abdulla Al Khatib, executive president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), which is taking charge of this fund.

This special charity fund has been financing two programmes, one of which involves distribution of aid to needy students at the rate of JD 300 annually to cover

their university fees. The sum will be retrieved when the student has graduated and began to earn a living, Dr. Khatib said.

"Since 1986 this programme benefited 925 students altogether receiving JD 800,000, Dr. Khatib said.

"A total of 325 of student beneficiaries have already graduated and are repaying the sums in instalments Dr. Khatib added.

The second programme, Dr. Khatib said, concerns direct grants in lump sums to needy students. In the past year, 1,530 male and female students benefited from this programme and have not to repay the loans, said Dr. Khatib.

The Ministry of Education is helping GUVS to carry out the charity fund programme in 960 schools around the country.

According to Dr. Khatib, in 1990 a total of JD 30,000 was collected.

**Police: 83% of Amman cases solved**

## Gulf crisis contributed to sharp rise in crime

AMMAN (J.T.) — A total of 2,699 robberies and thefts occurred within the Amman Governorate in the last half of 1990 and the first four months of 1991, mainly in the western and northern Amman districts, but the public Security Department (PSD) has succeeded in discovering 83 per cent of these crimes bringing the culprits to justice, according to Brigadier Ghaleb Zoubi, director of the Amman Police Department.

Brig. Zoubi told a press conference that the sharp rise in the number of robberies, compared to previous years, was due mainly to the negative effects of the Gulf crisis, the increase in the number of evacuees and returnees, and the fact that police departments were involved in matters related to evacuees.

The police have not only apprehended the criminals, it also retrieved the stolen property, and held an exhibition of stolen items that were inspected by the press.

Brig. Zoubi said 758 people were involved in robberies, most of whom very young or unemployed, with little education.

The group also included some non-Jordanian citizens from Arab

and foreign countries.

In addition to cash, the robbers stole electrical domestic appliances, jewellery, gold pieces, wrist watches, garments, cameras and other items which were displayed for the journalists who also examined the various tools used by the robbers in their crimes.

On May 10, the PSD announced that 1990 witnessed the occurrence of 21,885 crimes, registering a 8.7 per cent increase over the 1989 figures.

The PSD report cited a recent report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on socio-economic conditions in Jordan, and said that nearly 33 per cent of the population was living under the poverty line which was to blame for the increase in crime rates.

Brig. Zoubi said that discovered robberies and other crimes in Jordan was performed at one of the highest rates in the world, and predicted that the rate was expected to fall gradually thanks to sound security procedures and close cooperation between the police and the members of the public.

"Water and power supplies are still erratic, there are limited channels of communication



Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh Monday tells a press conference about his policy of opening pastures in woods for goats, a decision that has stirred debate in the country (Petra photo)

## Jordan seeks to reopen its embassy in Kuwait

By P.V. Vivekanad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is awaiting Kuwaiti response to a formal memorandum informing it of the Kingdom's desire to reopen its embassy in the emirate after a seven-month closure in the wake of the Gulf crisis, informed sources said Monday.

"Jordan has formally informed the Kuwaiti government of its desire to reopen its diplomatic mission, which was temporarily closed during the crisis," said one of the sources.

"The government has not received a reply yet from the Kuwaiti authorities," added the source, who declined to be identified.

Kuwaiti embassy officials have refused to make any formal comment on the status of the Jordanian request. But a Kuwaiti source said in exchange for anonymity that "the issue is under study by the government and in view of other priorities it could be in the backburner."

A few embassies have reopened in Kuwait but diplomats who regularly visit the emirate said the situation was still discouraging for them to set up residence there at least for the time being.

"Water and power supplies are still erratic, there are limited channels of communication

tions and diplomatic work gets bogged down," said an Asian diplomat stationed in Amman.

"Things are improving, but the heavy smoke and air pollution are still unbearable," he told the Jordan Times. "One study has indicated that 24 hours of stay in Kuwait are tantamount to smoking 250 cigarettes a day," he said, referring to the smoke bellowing from oil wells set ablaze during the Gulf war.

Jordan, along with dozens of other countries, closed its mission in Kuwait in September, following an Iraqi decree which ordered all countries to terminate their diplomatic presence in the emirate, which Baghdad proclaimed as its 19th province after taking it over in September.

"Jordan's case is not an isolated one," another official pointed out. "There are many countries which were not part of the American-led coalition (against Iraq) now seeking to reopen their missions in Kuwait," he said.

The reopening of the Jordanian mission is of particular importance to the government in view of the presence of over 150,000 Jordanian passport-holders in Kuwait and reports that many of them were being persecuted for what the Kuwaitis perceived as their support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

When Jordan closed the mission, it had also informed the Kuwaiti government (in exile in Saudi Arabia following the Iraqi invasion) that the closure was limited to the premises and it did in no way signal a shift in Jordan's principled position," said a senior official.

By inference, the official explained, Jordan made it clear that it did not recognise the Iraqi claim that Kuwait was one of its provinces and that the Kingdom remained firm on its stand that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute should be resolved through negotiations and

Iraq's occupation of the emirate should end.

Dozens of embassies closed their doors in Kuwait in line with the Iraqi order. Jordanian Ambassador Nabil Talhouni and other Jordanian diplomats as well as officials from concerned ministries stationed in Kuwait returned home in September.

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largely because "we were prepared before the media arrived," said Majeed Khalil, general manager of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

"We had a newly moved business centre with six secretaries providing services. We also had a press office which was increased to six rooms from one twenty years ago to accommodate the facilities and support the media well," Mr. Khalil told the Jordan Times.

According to statements from the annual general meeting, which was chaired earlier this month, by Ziad Annab and attended by the board of directors and shareholders, the high profit meant that the agency was able to dissolve the accumulated losses of JD 1,682,845 that it had throughout the years 1986-1989.

Mr. Khalil said that a traveller by land would have to pay JD 353 for travelling in air-conditioned buses, and JD 343 for buses without air-condition; this covers the cost of lodging as well. Those travelling by air should pay JD 285.75 for lodging alone in addition to the air fare.

The minister said that pilgrims from the occupied territories could register with the awqaf departments in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said that each pilgrim should have a valid passport, and a certificate of vaccination against meningitis issued 10 days before the time of departure for Saudi Arabia.

Referring to the transport com-

panies which were selected to facilitate the transportation of pilgrims, the minister said, they all have had long experience in handling transportation to and from Mecca, but their buses will all undergo testing at the Licensing Department to ensure that the vehicles are in good order.

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**MAHMOUD AL KAYED**

Director General:  
**MOHAMMAD AMAD**

Editor-in-Chief:  
**GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

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## Too much is at stake

DURING U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's second visit to Jordan today, the Jordanian leadership is expected to bear from him his views and analysis of where current peace efforts stand. The exchange should be frank and positive since both countries are genuinely interested in starting a meaningful peace process that would produce results. But this does not mean that Jordan will refrain from telling Mr. Baker our honest opinions on how the process should get off the ground.

As the news had it yesterday, the secretary of state and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh were both confident that many areas of agreement have actually been established to hold the proposed peace conference. True, contentious points of disagreements remain. But the overall picture is that the parties concerned could close the gap if they are sincerely interested in giving peace a chance.

If, for one reason or another, the positions of Syria and Israel remain unbridgeable — at least insofar as the two superpowers are concerned — it would have been only wise for Messrs. Baker and Bessmertnykh to have reached some form of understanding in their meetings in Cairo yesterday over what to do next. Either through coming up with a joint plan or agreeing on a united course of action, in case peace efforts reached a dead end, can the two superpowers exert any kind of pressure to get things going. Pressure may not be a nice word, but it may prove to be the only tactic that will work.

By this evening, Mr. Baker will have heard enough from the Arab side to convince him of the flexibility of the Arab position. He will have heard in the three Arab capitals he visited, including Damascus, that if Israel were really interested and ready to return occupied territories there would be sufficient room to compromise on the shape and duration of the peace conference. But, on the other hand, if Mr. Shamir insisted on ceding not an inch from the "land of Israel" there would be no point for the Arabs to accept the absence of the U.N. from such a conference or to agree to holding it on a one-time basis.

Mr. Baker will travel to Israel fully aware that the Shamir government will have to be more forthcoming and ready for peace than the case has been so far if progress is to be made. By the same token, he will not allow himself to quit if the Israelis continue to say no to everything. The secretary of state should — and hopefully does — have the answer to those who want to block the path to peace. Hence the importance and vital necessity of American-Soviet understanding on what has to be done if gentle persuasion comes to naught.

At this critical phase, we cannot afford to be either optimistic or pessimistic on peace prospects. We would like to think, however, that too much is at stake for this opportunity to be allowed to slip from our grasp.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SO far a compromise solution to the Middle East issue as advocated by the U.S. secretary of state is not clear to the Arabs, nor is it clear whether Washington is determined to apply the international legitimacy in dealing with this chronic problem, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Coinciding with Baker's tour, the Israeli leaders have announced their total rejection of the exchange of peace for land, and refusal to abandon the so-called greater Israel dream in this region, the paper noted. Two points which give clear signs of trouble are: Israel's celebrations of the anniversary of the annexation of east Jerusalem when Baker was holding talks in Damascus, and the cancellation of a joint press conference between the Syrian and American foreign ministers at the end of the Damascus meetings, said the paper. We are afraid that the so-called American compromise solution is way around the international legitimacy and the U.N. Security Council resolutions, noted the paper. If the Americans intend to impose such a solution on the Arabs away from the international legitimacy, the peace process will be in trouble because Washington would be deviating from the sound course leading to a just peace, the paper added. Israel's manoeuvres and America's failure to take action, said the paper, can by no means contribute towards the achievement of genuine peace.

A columnist in Al Dustour daily calls on the government to arrange for bakeries and industrial businesses to give on-the-job training to Jordanians who could take over from non-Jordanian workers. Mohammad Daoud says that this process is adopted by all industrialised nations which take extra care to see that no line of production can be interrupted no matter what happens in the labour market. The writer notes that the recent deal reached between the Labour Ministry and the bakeries is a temporary one, and problems concerning the employment of non-Jordanians are bound to crop up again. For this reason, he says, the government must see to it that bakeries and other businesses give training to Jordanians while the non-Jordanian workers are still employed, so that the gradual layoff of the non-Jordanians would not affect production or interrupt any business. The writer blames owners of bakeries for exploiting the non-Jordanian workers, forcing them to work for 12 hours or more, for refusing to pay reasonable wages to Jordanians and for avoiding payment of fees for work permits. The writer also calls on the government to fix minimum wages for workers in bakeries and thin working hours in order to encourage the local workers to take over from the non-Jordanians and so help reduce the problem of unemployment in the country.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Thank heaven for little girls (in shorts)

THE controversy over the minister of education's decision banning men from attending end-of-year private school ceremonies in which schoolgirls wear their sports shorts or exercise clothes promises to be one of those apparently innocuous events around which empires — well, if not empires, then at least fiefs and ministries — rise or fall, and the careers of men are made or broken. Initial reaction among many parents I have spoken to has been strong, and both private and public debate on the question is widespread, as it should be — not because of the issue itself, but for what it speaks about Jordan today, and where we're heading as a country, and perhaps even as an Arab nation.

The matter really breaks down into two questions. The first one is technical, and relatively easy, comprising valid points such as: does the majority of Jordanians favour this rule? Does a majority of Jordanians find it appropriate and in keeping with the land's Islamic heritage and tradition of personal freedom of choice? If so, is it appropriate to impose it on all schools and parents, or should people have a choice about the practices in their schools? Can a private school allow young girls in shorts or young boys in Mickey Mouse hats to stand on their heads and eat five kilogrammes of doughnuts while singing the national anthem and carrying pictures of the Arab World in front of their fathers, if this is not done at a government school with the formal, official blessing of the government and therefore in the name of the people? Can fathers watch their girls play tennis in shorts in their private clubs, at a hotel in Aqaba, or at the Olympic Games where the girls may represent Jordan? Is it logical to ban fathers from watching their girls in sports shorts while we watch far more provocative things on television? Does the minister of education have the right to decree such a rule on his own, or should it be formally approved by a majority of the cabinet? Is it a minister's job to implement the policy of the government — a government named by His Majesty King Hussein, accountable to and approved by the people through their representatives in Parliament — or does a minister have sufficient latitude to implement such controversial decisions unilaterally? Can the ministers of agriculture and supply order a ban on growing or importing seedless grapes because they are an alien western intrusion into our earth and digestive systems?

You see what I mean? There are many interesting ramifications to this ruling which can and should be discussed. I do not wish to support or oppose the ruling, because that is irrelevant to the point I make. The key issue is that this is a controversial ruling which was unilaterally made by the minister of education, whom, I am sure, is an honourable and well meaning fellow. I do not know him, have never met him, and have no reason to support or oppose him. His person, like my views, is not the issue. Rather, the issue is: how does a newly democratising country such as Jordan make controversial decisions such as this, which many people feel may be the tip of the iceberg of the second question related to this matter?

That second, more important, question is not technical, but political, and highly charged. It is about the exercise of raw political power, in a society making the transition from public political scepticism to political pluralism. As people start to feel the impact on their own family lives of administrative decisions made by Islamic fundamentalist ministers who were elected to parliament in 1989, the reality of social and political change starts to sink in.

Many people ask themselves: will we start with no fathers watching girls in shorts, then move to segregated classes, and then to mandatory dress codes, import restrictions, and so on and so forth until we have the full physical manifestations of absolute Islamic rule? Do we make political history by making the

transition from autocracy to democracy to theocracy in one smooth motion, around the turn of the decade of the 1980s/90s?

This, of course, is the heart of the issue, and it also comprises some of the technical elements in the first question above: how many Jordanians want an Islamic state, with mandatory dress codes, non-usurious banking and other such attributes? An Islamic state may be just the thing we need to counter the regression and confusion of the recent past, the mismanagement and waste, the arrogance of the bureaucracy, the humiliation of Israel, the manipulation and exploitation of the superpowers, and the fragmentation of the larger Arab/Islamic family.

Does the fact that Muslim Brotherhood candidates and other independent Islamists won 40 per cent of the seats of the Lower House of Parliament in the 1989 elections mean that ministers of this political tendency have the authority unilaterally to start applying regulations which reflect their thinking? Had Arab nationalists won 40 per cent, would they have the right to wipe out the border with Syria and Saudi Arabia (good idea, actually, but let's wait for the next election...). Had tribal candidates won 40 per cent of the seats, would they have the right to cancel civil law and return to adjudication of disputes through tribal law (not a bad idea, either, given the sad state of our legal system...). Had communists won 40 per cent of the seats, could they unilaterally unionise the falafel and shawarma makers?

But even this is not the whole question. Deeper down, the real issue is not about men, but rather about God: not about politics, but about heaven and earth. Islam was politicised in Jordan and many other Arab/Islamic countries because it was the only means to express personal, social and political sentiments, and/or to criticise, oppose, challenge or question the government of the day, back when the governments of the day were the only political game in town. Islamist candidates in Jordan and many other countries rode to power on a mandate from the voters and a mantle from heaven, in the same manner that religiously oriented candidates also rose to political power in the United States, Israel, India, Haiti and many other non-Islamic countries around the world. The politicisation of Islam is also similar to the political role which the Christian church played in the revolutions and political evolutions of Eastern Europe, the Philippines, South Korea, Central America, South Africa and many other countries. When men give up on the political order, they turn to God. It's an ancient and trusted habit in this part of the world, where political order and the formal worship of God were both born and raised to maturity.

There is nothing unusual about the use of religion as a political appeal to respond to the grievances and aspirations of the people. The question is, though, when religiously-oriented candidates assume some or all power, do they have a mandate to radically transform society into their image of heaven? Or, as happened in South Africa and Eastern Europe, does religion resume its predominantly personal/spiritual role once political change has been effected and a new group of more popularly-supported civil leaders takes power? Notice, for example, how Bishop Desmond Tutu now goes about his priestly business with little public fanfare, since Nelson Mandela is back running the political quest for dignity and freedom. Is such a distinction appropriate in the realm of Islam, as it is in other religions, or do the people of Jordan truly want an Islamic state in which there is no distinction between the strictures of spirituality and the structures of statehood?

I have generally seen the Islamic fundamentalist movement throughout the Arab World as a necessary and appropriate corrective to the excesses of the last several decades of pan-Arab national failure and regression. As a Christian Arab male (woman), and other minority/ethnic/religious groups in the Arab

World may have a different opinion). I have no fears of an authentically Islamic state as such, because the Islamic tradition of tolerance for minority religions strikes me as practical and positive. It is also likely that in the long run, when the modern Arab countries are truly democratic, pluralistic, integrated and equitable, religion will have an individualistic spiritual value greater than its role as a means of political mobilisation and challenge. At that point, pan-Arab nationalism will emerge as the stronger force that cements our many little countries into the more equitable and productive Arab national home we aspire to live in.

The question here is whether Islamic-style decisions should be supported or not. The question is: who makes such decisions, and how are they to be made in a newly democratic, neo-pluralistic society? Democracy and pluralism are very dear to us in Jordan today, but they are still young, fragile and vulnerable. They must be strengthened and deepened by an ability of the people to openly discuss even the most sensitive issues, including corruption, human rights, women's status, religion, politics, and any administrative decision by public officials which may have an impact on the future of our children and our country.

The fact that up until now there has been a general shyness about openly questioning or even debating positions taken by Muslim Brotherhood-style candidates has been one of the Achilles Heels of our young pluralistic democracy (the absence of political parties and alternative media are others, but these should be rectified soon). But this constraining factor should be well behind us now, if we are serious about pluralism and democratic change. Those who rose to power on the back of attractive and genuine slogans of piety and morality are now players in a political process — horse-traders, deal-makers, parliamentary coalition-makers, and ministerial aspirants. Having spoken for God in their successful march to political power and incumbency, they are now accountable to both God and to the people, vis-a-vis the challenge of building a humane and durable country. The real world knocks. The people want answers, programmes, progress, real improvement in their lives. Is hiding the legs of little girls the answer? It may be. I don't presume to know. But I do know that we shall never find out the true answer, or the true feelings of the people of this country, unless we engage in the marketplace of political dialogue, and of intellectual battle. It is a grizzly, demanding but exhilarating business. And it will largely determine the future prospects of those little girls running around in shorts this month singing the national anthem.

The grassroots debate about the education minister's decision may be an important test case of how our democracy will develop — whether it will flourish into a genuinely pluralistic system in which public debate and majority vote determine public policy, or whether calls to higher forces and older fears will effectively quash the transition to authentic pluralism. It is another good opportunity — remember the ban on male hairdressers cutting women's hair — to galvanize and fortify the nascent process of public discussion and honest debate. God doesn't complicate the issue; He simply makes it that much more interesting, and important.

This is not a controversy about shorts and girls' legs. It is about power, public authority, national identity, and the future of the Arab World — which is why the single most important thing that should happen in the immediate future in Jordan is to make sure that politicians, parliamentarians, the press, university professors, school teachers, office workers, little boys on bicycles, little girls in shorts, falafel makers, shawarma fans and fathers and mothers everywhere should come out of the shadows and start getting involved in the excitement and responsibility of democratic life.

## Press freedom curtailed in Sudan

ARTICLE 19 is a London-based organisation that monitors the freedom of the press worldwide.

ALTHOUGH the press has never been wholly unfettered in Sudan the three year period before the June 1989 military coup was a time of relative freedom. Some 40 newspapers, representing a wide range of political opinions, were regularly published, and the total circulation of leading dailies was in the region of 170,000 copies. Journalism was an optimistic profession, attracting well-qualified people, and the foreign press was permitted a degree of access to the country, even in the war-torn south. Immediately following the coup, the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation (RCC), led by Lieutenant General Omar Al Bashir, began systematically to censor the press, harass, ban and detain journalists and introduce new measures to silence any views other than those of the RCC government.

Since the military takeover, newspapers have been banned by Constitutional Decree 2 issued on June 30, 1989, leaving Al Quwat Al Musallaha, a political weekly published by the Armed Forces Moral Guidance Division, as the only newspaper allowed to publish. Between August 1989 and May 1990 the RCC launched four new publications all under the direct control of the National Islamic Front (NIF), an organisation which is widely known to have close political links with the military.

Sudanow, the state-owned English-language political monthly magazine, was suspended but began to publish again in October 1989, greatly reduced in size and content due to political pressure and the emigration of qualified staff. Circulation of the magazine, estimated in the early 1980s to be approximately 15,000, today has dwindled to nearer 3,000. In May 1990 the RCC Political Committee Chairman issued a directive that newspapers containing political comment could not be published without the authorisation of the RCC.

In August 1989, several meetings between journalists, senior editors, academics and

the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) and Sudan National Radio and Television Corporation. The dismissals, carried out under RCC decree, were regarded by the authorities as a vital measure to rid the media of "renegades, hirelings and fifth columnists." A journalist on Al Sudani Al Hadith was, for example, abruptly dismissed for having written an article arguing that the Deputy Commissioner of Khartoum province should not have ordered the removal of drinking water coolers from a street in the capital. In March 1990, nine sports newspapers were banned for allegedly violating the code of ethics issued by the RCC Information Committee. In May 1990 four privately-owned, non-political newspapers were banned without any official explanation.

lays and, even if they surmount this barrier, are restricted in their travel within the country and are at all times accompanied by government agents.

During 1990 several foreign journalists were arbitrarily detained and subsequently deported. At the end of March 1990 the Khartoum bureau chief for Reuters, Hamza Hindawi, an Egyptian, was jailed by security forces. He was released shortly after, apparently through the intervention of the Egyptian authorities, declared persona non grata and expelled from the country.

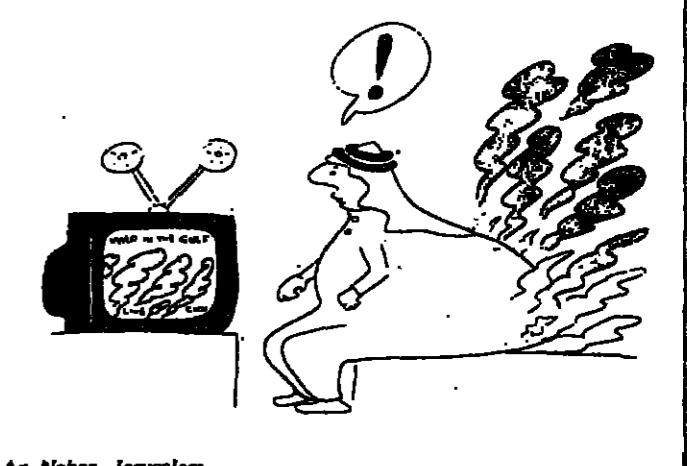
Khartoum Airport now has a security office staffed by high-ranking military intelligence officers, who strictly censor all foreign publications coming into the country.

### Famine — A tragic consequence

One tragic consequence of this stringent control of the press has been the official denial of the food crisis which began in western Sudan in 1990 and then spread to many other parts of the north. As ARTICLE 19 demonstrated in its 1990 Censorship Report, Starving in Silence, a free press is a vital ingredient in preventing famine because it allows the earliest indicators of impending food shortages to be openly discussed, both nationally and internationally, and serves as a channel for exerting pressure on governments to act. A free press gives potential victims of famine a voice.

The Sudanese government's refusal to acknowledge the extent of the food crisis has impeded any concerted relief action, and thus has allowed the crisis to spread and deepen. International donors are hampered and the national and foreign media have been effectively prevented from covering the developing famine. The surveillance scheme was introduced to keep track of printing and photocopying equipment in government departments. Photocopying equipment was ordered to be inspected and coded at the Council of Ministers' headquarters and further restrictions were imposed on the importation of typewriters, photocopiers, fax machines and printing equipment.

While Sudanese journalists face the constant threat of imprisonment, foreign journalists are not exempt from harassment and deportation. The expressed view of the government is that the foreign press is biased towards the SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) and exists to give them political and moral support. The BBC World Service has been singled out as a main offender. Foreign journalists who apply for visas to visit Sudan are subject to long de-



## LETTERS

### Insulted and frustrated

To the Editor:

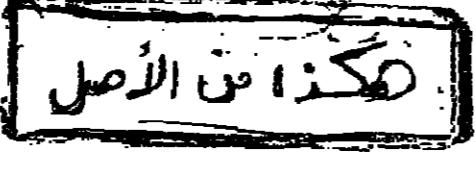
MY feelings of happiness following a recent trip to Aqaba with the family have given way to anger, frustration and sadness on reading a front-page article (Jordan Times, May 10) concerning the minister of education's remarks which imply that my husband, along with the entire population of fathers/brothers in this country are nothing more than immoral lechers in the presence of their own daughters/sisters and other young girls; frustration because, as a mother, I had high hopes for the process of development in the educational system of Jordan, which I believe holds the key to a highly principled, morally strong and economically sound development process in the Kingdom; and sadness because the way in which religion is being used and abused to pursue political advantage.

I have lived in Jordan for eleven years and I have grown to love and respect my adopted homeland and its people, its traditions and customs and its religion tolerance. As a Christian, I am keen for my children to learn about Islam so that we may create greater understanding amongst Christian and Muslim children the world over, and I am a firm believer in the benefits and advantages of inter-religious dialogue.

As a parent, I strongly object to this latest directive from the minister of Education; not only is it counter-productive and oppressive but also implies that Jordan society has no moral ethics.

If the minister is so concerned about personal freedoms as stated in the article, then I would like to suggest that he should change his dictatorial directives into a democratic dialogue leading to a cohesive national educational policy to serve and suit all Jordanians based on the family unit. Reinforcing family bondage and trust between parents and children is surely the only way to ensure that our children grow up in a healthy and happy life ahead.

J. Sawalha  
Amman



## Crown Prince pays visit to Zarqa

(Continued from page 1)  
good of our homeland."

The Prince inspected the Zarqa water network project, which is carried out by the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), and took part with workers at the project in digging channels for pipes. Prince Hassan commended their work and called on them to persevere to finish the project in the shortest possible time.

The Prince also visited Janaa area and the Zarqa refugee camp and heard people's demands, needs, problems and solutions to these problems.

Prince Hassan also visited several farms southeast of Zarqa to be familiarised with the farmers' needs.

The Crown Prince lauded the farmers for their constructive role in supporting the national economy.

In his meeting with the governor, senators and deputies of the governorate, Prince Hassan said the National Charter, which has been drafted by a general committee, is a step towards developing the political dictionary and organising Jordanian action,

## Superpowers to pursue efforts

(Continued from page 1)  
would not withdraw from Arab territories it has occupied since the 1967 war.

"Shamir has become used to welcoming each tour by Baker and each genuine peace effort with provocative statements and actions," Tishreen said.

Syria wants the conference to reconvene periodically, but Israel favours a one-day event which would then split into several groups for bilateral negotiations. But Mr. Bessmertnykh and Egypt's foreign minister, Esmat Abdul Meguid, struck a more optimistic note on Monday.

Mr. Bessmertnykh said his and Mr. Baker's efforts had reached "a rather large plateau" but that many problems had been solved and only a few remained.

Mr. Abdul Meguid told reporters: "There are still some problems but we don't consider them insurmountable. We think the United States is very serious in its efforts and we will continue to work hand-in-hand until we see a peace conference start."

An official on Mr. Baker's plane to Cairo two days ago appeared close to settlement. They concerned who should represent Palestinians and whether the conference should be held under U.N. resolutions 242 and 388, which set out the principles of Israel trading occupied territory for peace.

Israel rejects talks with the PLO. Mr. Baker has held talks with Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

In three speeches on Sunday Mr. Shamir said Israel would never yield any part of Jerusalem.

Mr. Shamir's speeches, Israel's dismissal of a plan announced on Saturday by Gulf Arab states to join peace talks as observers, and a court decision to expel four Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, all fed pessimism about Mr. Baker's visit.

Israel has publicly rejected any U.N. role and anything beyond a ceremonial one-time conference that would immediately adjourn into direct talks between individual states.

"As far as I understand Mr. Shamir's position, a U.N. role is a no-go," said an Israeli official who could foresee no yielding by the hardline prime minister.

Mr. Shamir has already publicly reversed Foreign Minister Levy's acceptance of the conference reconvening after six months, even though Israel would have a veto over the meeting.

Mr. Shamir opposes any role for the United Nations because he considers it biased against Israel.

He wants negotiations with individual states but fears a larger gathering would increase the pressure on Israel to trade land for peace. Members of his ruling coalition have demanded that he refuse any concessions on a full conference.

Another 10 mobile homes were added on Monday to the 20 already in the settlement of Talmon B, which was started just before Mr. Baker's previous visit last month.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, the driving force behind the settlement programme, told a parliamentary committee Monday Israel began construction of 4,500 new homes and installed 1,300 mobile homes in the occupied territories last year.

Mr. Levy arrived in Brussels on Monday to press the European Community (EC) to end what he sees as a pro-Arab bias. Israeli diplomats said Mr. Levy would discuss the community's role in the peace process with EC foreign ministers.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, speaking to reporters in Madrid Monday, said the EC must take part in

## U.N. takes over Zakho camp

(Continued from page 1)

An Iraqi Information Ministry spokesman denied the report. "No exchange of fire took place between Iraqi soldiers and British troops" in the area mentioned in the reports, the spokesman told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from Baghdad.

Prince Hassan stressed the need of finding scientific cadres in the university which will be established in Zarqa and called for concentrating on courses that could serve the Jordanian economy.

He said the Zarqa Basin development project aims at creating a green belt which will serve Zarqa and Mafrqa governorates.

The Crown Prince called on industrialists to cooperate with the concerned authorities in the planning process and asked them to dump toxic waste in places allocated for that purpose.

Governor Mohammad Hussein Al Shabaki briefed Prince Hassan on problems facing the governorate and said the conditions of the citizens in the governorate were good thanks to their cooperation.

**Shamir meets Saudi leaders**

(Continued from page 1)

the Soviet Union, we would not have reached the international solidarity we reached in facing the aggression," he told reporters.

He also said he supported the Soviet Union's "great efforts" towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and said there was "an opportunity now for moving forward."

**Soviets: U.S. walking thin line**

(Continued from page 1)

of handing the region over to the control of a U.N. police force, and Mr. Baker said Friday it might be necessary to seek a new resolution in the Security Council to establish such a force.

This would create a difficult precedent for the Soviet Union and other countries which do not accept the concept of U.N. involvement in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Mr. Baker also said both the United States and the Soviet Union would like to hold a summit this summer. But Washington wants first to wrap two outstanding arms control agreements — conventional forces for Europe (CFE) and the strategic arms reduction treaty (START).

**Jordan to reaffirm its position**

(Continued from page 1)

legitimacy umbrella it requires would be fulfilled when the purpose of the proposed conference is explicitly announced to be the implementation of U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 — the land for peace formula.

"The legal basis for the conference is resolutions 242 and 338 so the legitimacy of the conference is covered," one official explained.

Jordan is expected to remain steadfast on the issue of how often the conference would be held or whether it would be a one time affair after which bilateral talks between Arab states and Israel begin.

One official said Jordan "will not accept a situation where Israel has a veto on the conference."

The Syrian position, Jordanian officials say, could become more flexible if the U.S. and Israel were able to accept the concept of a peace conference which would be held periodically. "In that case Syria would be willing to move forward with the Americans," said an official.

Already Jordan sees that a compromise was struck between Israel and the Arabs in that the proposed conference "is not a regional conference as Israel wanted nor an international conference as we have been saying."

Foreign Minister Masri, in his interview with Jordan Radio, said: "It is not clear yet what James Baker has achieved, but the matter now depends on Israel and its response to the American efforts."

Jordan and other Arab countries, he said, "have announced their readiness to be flexible to a certain degree, and this degree should not exceed the terms which the Arabs have accepted and not exceed... the principle of land for peace."

"Mr. Baker has to obtain new ideas from Israel that can facilitate the peace process," Mr. Masri said.

Jordanian officials have suggested that Mr. Baker attempt a more limited peace conference without Syria or take a different approach to stimulating contacts.

"I think it would be wrong to exclude any Arab country particularly a country which is so important in the context of the (Middle) East situation," he said in reference to Syria.

He stressed the U.N. role in such a conference saying the world body "was an international organisation of which Israel is a full member country."

## Government reviews water measures

(Continued from page 1)

minister has set up an ad hoc committee, which started its meetings Sunday. The committee will prepare a report on the problem soon.

Mr. Srour said the violations by industrial establishments had left their long term effects because of repetitions of these violations since several years, which led to

the accumulation of harmful elements in soil and water used for irrigation.

During the meeting, Mr. Srour said the Cabinet decided to follow a specified mechanism in implementing resolutions swiftly. One of these urgent measures will be spraying crops in the Jordan Valley by helicopters, he said.

He added that a ministerial

committee was formed comprising the ministers of health, municipal, rural affairs and the environment, industry and trade, agriculture, water and irrigation. The task of the committee, according to Mr. Srour, will be to follow up the implementation of resolutions on industrial establishments' compliance with specifications or industrial waste treatment.

## Pollution threatens water resources

The following article is reprinted from IDRC Reports, the magazine of the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

**WATER**. Next to oxygen it is the most important natural substance keeping us alive. To many, it seems to be a free and seemingly endless source of life. But it is not endless.

Kurdish leaders are reasonably optimistic about the outcome of their discussions, "Gen. Shaiikashvili told reporters. "I feel that sense of optimism on the Iraqi side."

But Prince Aga Khan said:

"We cannot pause and wait until there is a political breakthrough.

We have to deal with the men,

women, children, the vulnerable groups who have suffered enough and who need to be rehabilitated."

The United Nations, he said,

needs more cash in order to take

over the massive resettlement operation from the United States and its allies.



The King Talal dam water that irrigates large areas of the Jordan Valley has been greatly polluted by sewage water especially from factories that litter the

Zarqa River basin. The now-barren basin was described by 18th century travellers as a garden in paradise (File photo).

urban areas have been dropping consistently. In Manila, water levels have decreased during the last two decades by about 4-10 m a year; in Beijing the drop in the city's 40,000 wells has ranged from 1 to 3 m every year. Similar figures have been registered in Mexico City and Lima.

In some coastal cities, overpumping has drawn salty sea water inland, a phenomenon that is called saline intrusion. This is the case in Dakar, Jakarta, Lima, and Manila.

Another negative aspect of overpumping is the dewatering of parts of the aquifer. When water is taken out of the aquifer some moisture also leaves the surrounding layers of sediment. This has occurred in Mexico City and Bangkok.

**Expensive alternatives**

The net effect of this deterioration in both ground and surface water supplies is increasing costs in finding alternative water supplies. A basic trend of water resource development is that the most accessible water sources are developed first — and often they are contaminated first. New sources of water are difficult to find and more expensive.

Some heavily industrialised, large urban centres like Sao Paulo, Calcutta, Mexico City, and Cairo have a particularly poor record of environmental protection of their water resources.

Cities, through their expanding populations and industrial exploitation, are damaging or even destroying their life-giving water resources. These urban areas are only beginning to realise that they cannot keep going to the same

Underground water reservoirs are contained in the voids of the sediment and rock underneath the earth's surface. These "aquifers," as they are known to geologists, range from relatively thin and shallow pools to huge volumes hundreds of metres beneath the surface.

This water stored under the ground is often abundant and of high quality. It is also significantly less vulnerable to contamination because it is more or less protected by layers of sediment and rock.

But polluted water can, and in fact has, found its way into the underground reservoirs. Few notice this invisible pollution, but it exists, and it is almost impossible to clean up.

Aquifers, although containing abundant volumes of water, are also finite and cannot accept indefinite extraction beyond their renewal potential.

Unfortunately, not many countries have a clear idea of the renewal potential or the vulnerability of their groundwater resources. Most cities using groundwater — Lima, Beijing, and Manila — to name a few — are over-pumping their aquifers beyond their renewal possibilities.

Water levels in Third World

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## Sabatini stuns Seles in Italian Open

ROME (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini put in her bid for leadership in women's tennis Sunday, routing top-ranked Monica Seles in two sets to win the Italian Open.

The 21-year-old Argentine, ranked no. 3 in the world, dominated the 17-year-old Yugoslav in a rain-interrupted 6-3, 6-2 victory.

Sabatini, stronger this year than ever before, displayed an aggressive all-court game, rushing the net and scoring winner after winner with sharply angled forehand drives.

She ran off 10 straight points in the 6th and 7th games as Seles seemed unable to find her bearing.

Sabatini jumped out to a 5-3 lead when the rains, which have bedeviled the \$500,000 tournament all week, interrupted play at the Foro Italico.

When the players returned after a 1-hour, 25-minute delay, Seles had changed from a violet to a pink outfit but was unable to change the colour of the match.

Sabatini broke immediately off the first set, then reeled off the next three games to set up the victory, her third Italian title after wins in 1988 and 1989. Seles won last year.

A packed centre-court crowd of 8,000 roared evenly for both players in what organisers had billed as the "dream final," pitting the top two seeds.

"I am playing better and better. I have a lot of confidence now," said Sabatini, who won \$100,000 for her afternoon's work.

She said the court condition didn't make much difference.

But Seles, losing her second tournament final in a week, attributed part of her problem to the heavy rain-dampened clay. She admitted she will probably face the same conditions at the French Open, the upcoming Grand Slam event on clay.

"It was tough, the court was definitely better for Gaby's game," said Seles, whose game is built around powerful two-fisted groundstrokes. "But I didn't expect the court to be that slow after the rain delay."

Some of her shots seemed to hang long enough for Sabatini to reach them with an extended racket after losing their sting on the damp clay.

Seles, who won \$40,000, conceded that Sabatini played tougher.

"I had my chances. At the close points, she played better," Seles said.



Gabriela Sabatini

In particular, Seles had trouble holding serve. She was broken three times in each set and battled even when she held.

The victory was Sabatini's second in five matches with Seles going back to 1988.

Seles grabbed the no. 1 spot on March 11, ending Steffi Graf's record 186 consecutive weeks at the top. Last week, Graf defeated Seles in three sets in Hamburg.

"There is no question that Gabriela, Steffi, Martina (Navratilova) and I are all very close," said Seles. "It really depends on who is in better shape that particular week and who has a little luck."

Sabatini breezed through Rome, losing only 13 games. Seles was taken to three sets in the semifinals Saturday by Mary Joe Fernandez.

Seles came into Rome 29-3 on the year, including three tournament wins. Sabatini was 29-2 with four tournament victories before the Italian Open.

"I feel very happy. It was difficult but I think the rain favoured me," said Sabatini.

"The interruption was good for me," Sabatini said. "It was getting difficult in the first set, so was coming up (to the net)."

Asked whether she was ready to go for the world number one spot, Sabatini, having now won three tournaments in row, said: "I've always said I must take one tournament after another. But now it looks as if everything is coming together, both mentally and technically."

Meanwhile, Boris Becker was looking for his first major clay court title and to inch closer to

the no. 1 ranking as the men moved into the Foro Italico Monday in the \$1.2-million Italian Open.

Becker heads the 54-player field that also includes Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Sergio Brugera and Jim Courier.

Becker, ranked no. 2 on the men's tour, has been preparing for the French Open, a Grand Slam event played on clay, by entering Monte Carlo — where he finished second — and now Rome. He is pursuing Stefan Edberg, who is not entered in Rome, for the world's top spot.

At Monte Carlo, the red-haired German lost to Brugera, a clay court specialist, and may find things tougher for his power game here. The Foro Italico courts can take the sting out of the best of a big service even under ideal conditions.

Agassi's baseline game is more suited to the court conditions. The American, seeded second, reached the finals two years ago, losing to Alberto Mancini of Argentina in five sets.

But Mancini has been sliding, and had to play in the qualifying rounds here while Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, was given a wildcard.

Like Becker, Sampras, seeded third, likes to serve and volley.

The tournament has clay court specialists.

They include Brugera, fellow Spaniard Emilio Sanchez, Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia, the winner at the German Open Sunday, Swedes Jonas Svensson and Magnus Gustafsson and Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina.

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## Yzaga wins men's clay court finals

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (R) — Seventh-seed Jaime Yzaga defeated fifth-seed Jimmy Arias 6-3 7-5 to win the U.S. Men's Clay Court Tennis Championships and his first tournament in three years Sunday.

Yzaga earned \$30,960 in the rain-delayed final. Arias, who

won \$18,230, has lost all seven finals he has played since 1983.

Both players, looking to force play during the baseline exchanges, began nervously in the first set. In the fifth game, Yzaga broke Arias' serve to go up 3-2, with a decisive backhand pass down the line off a weak Arias

backhand volly.

Yzaga, constantly pressuring the weaker Arias backhand, then broke in the seventh and ninth games to take the first set 6-3.

"This game was a huge turning point, it took a lot of steam out of me," said Arias.

"We may have won four races but that is mostly because of the circumstances. It will not always be like that."

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# Economy

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1991 7

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank					
<b>U.S. Dollar in International Markets</b>					
Currency New York Close Date: 10/5/1991 Tokyo Close Date: 13/5/91					
Sterling Pound*	1.7245	1.7265			
Deutsche Mark	1.7225	1.7185			
Swiss Franc	1.4545	1.4535			
French Franc	5.8225	5.8340*			
Japanese Yen	138.65	139.03			
European Currency Unit	1.1945	1.1927*			
* USD Per STC					
** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT					
<b>Eurocurrency Interest Rates</b> Date: 13/5/1991					
Currency 1 MTH 3 MTHS 6 MTHS 12 MTHS					
U.S. Dollar 5.87 6.00 6.06 6.30					
Sterling Pound 11.81 11.37 11.06 10.87					
Deutsche Mark 8.81 9.00 9.12 9.12					
Swiss Franc 8.18 8.18 8.12 7.81					
French Franc 9.00 9.06 9.12 9.25					
Japanese Yen 8.87 7.68 7.56 7.37					
European Currency Unit 9.68 9.56 9.56 9.43					
Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
<b>Precious Metals</b> Date:					
Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm* Metal USD/Oz JD/Gm					
Gold 356.65 6.70 Silver 4.03 .087					
* 21 Karat					
<b>Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin</b> Date: 13/5/1991					
Currency Bid Offer					
U.S. Dollar .680 .682					
Sterling Pound 1.1735 1.1794					
Deutsche Mark .3956 .3976					
Swiss Franc .4677 .4700					
French Franc 1.169 1.175					
Japanese Yen* .4894 .4918					
Dutch Guilder .3511 .3529					
Swedish Krona .1105 .1111					
Italian Lira* .0533 .0536					
Belgian Franc .01907 .01917					
* Per 100					
<b>Other Currencies</b> Date: 13/5/1991					
Currency Bid Offer					
Bahraini Dinar 1.7400 1.7600					
Lebanese Lira* .0720 .0740					
Saudi Riyal .1810 .1825					
Kuwaiti Dinar -- --					
Qatari Riyal .1830 .1855					
Egyptian Pound .1900 .2050					
Omani Riyal 1.7200 1.7400					
UAE Dirham .1829 .1850					
Greek Drachma* .3600 .3610					
Cypriot Pound 1.4330 1.4430					
* Per 100					
<b>CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market</b>					
Index 11/5/1991 Close 12/5/1991 Close					
All-Share 113.24 112.72					
Banking Sector 109.76 109.66					
Insurance Sector 111.83 111.81					
Industry Sector 117.64 116.48					
Services Sector 122.47 121.31					
December 31, 1990 = 100					

## Major Iraqi refinery returns to full capacity this week

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq's biggest oil refinery at Beiji, north of Baghdad, is expected to be fully operational by mid-May with a total capacity to process 300,000 barrels per day (b/d), raising the country's oil refining to almost near pre-war levels, according to a highly-placed Iraqi source.

"Right now two units with a processing capacity of 100,000 b/d are fully operational at Beiji and we expect the third unit to be fully functional by the third week of May," said the source.

According to the source, who preferred anonymity, the Al Dora refinery, on the outskirts of Baghdad, is now running at its full capacity of 92,000 b/d. In addition, "smaller units with output capacities of 10,000 or 15,000 b/d are functional," he told the Jordan Times.

The total length of the pipelines to Yanbu and Jihan is around 3.5 million to four million metres, and this means that they hold around 25 million barrels of oil," he explained.

In any event, said the source, "hypothetically speaking, if we are to get the oil in store in Yanbu back to Iraq the only way to do that is for the Saudis to pump their own oil or gas into the storage and pipelines. But it is not possible with the pipeline through Turkey since the Turks have neither oil nor gas."

The source as well as other Iraqi officials indicated that they remained hopeful that the United Nations Sanctions Committee would soon act upon an Iraqi request to sell \$942 million worth in oil to raise funds to purchase food and medicine.

"Of course they (the sanctions committee) are dragging their feet over it," said one official. "Obviously they have combined everything related to the Gulf crisis and do not make any distinction between what is right and what is wrong."

"We need the funds urgently, and our first exports will be from the Yanbu and Jihan storages," said the official.

"Unfortunately our request is being viewed against a political background by the sanctions committee — or the powers that control it — but it is our hope that the sense of justice and fairness will prevail and we can resume our oil exports soon," he added.

The source confirmed that about 40 billion barrels of oil remained in Iraqi storages at the Saudi port of Yanbu on the Red Sea and at Jihan in Turkey as well as Iraqi pipelines running to the storage.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia — two key partners in the American-led alliance against Iraq — closed the Iraqi pipelines running through their territory shortly after the United Nations imposed economic sanctions.

One foreign banker said the statement on allowing offshore banks in the UAE posed more questions than it answered.

The agency gave no other details and the finance ministry and

central bank officials were not available for comment.

There is no legislation to regulate offshore banking in the UAE, but there is complete freedom of lending abroad and no foreign currency restrictions which allow the UAE-based banks to deal with other Gulf states, bankers said.

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TOKYO — Stocks closed lower after Wall Street's 51-point plunge on Friday. The Nikkei index slid 181.09 points or 0.69 per cent to 26,093.20.

SYDNEY — Shares fell sharply in nervous selling as offshore buyers deserted the local market. The All Ordinaries index lost 25.2 points or 1.63 per cent, to 1,523.1.

HONG KONG — Prices ended higher on last-minute buying, but brokers said thin turnover underlined the market's cautious sentiment. The Hang Seng index gained 17.43 points to end at 3,767.63, while the broader-based Hong Kong index rose 11.12 to 2,465.07.

SINGAPORE — The market closed lower on weak overseas sentiment. The Straits Times Industrial index lost 14.93 points to end at 1,517.39.

BOMBAY — Share prices met with heavy profit-taking after a firm opening to finish mixed. The Bombay Stock Exchange index touched a high of 1,302.36 before slipping to 1,289.13, up 0.78.

The National index gained 2.50 points to 641.52.

FRANKFURT — A revival of rumours that the Bundesbank president may resign and declines in prices on Wall Street and Tokyo sent German share prices lower. The 30-share Dax index ended down 9.73 points at 1,605.96.

ZURICH — Slightly lower Swiss interest rates lent some support to a dull market. The All-Share SPI index fell 4.6 to 1,080.3 points. The Blue Chip SMI index lost 7.6 to 1,654.3.

PARIS — The bourse finished quietly weaker, shedding most of Friday's solid gains but showing resistance on the downside, traders said. The CAC-40 index ended down 15.82 points, or 0.86 per cent, at 1,834.45.

LONDON — Shares fell as Wall Street slipped from a mixed opening. The FTSE 100 shed 37.7 points to 2,486.6.

NEW YORK — The Dow Jones industrial average fell 6.93 points to 2,913.24 under modest pressure, with many investors sidelined.

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FRANKFURT — A revival of rumours that the Bundesbank president may resign and declines in prices on Wall Street and Tokyo sent German share prices lower. The 30-share Dax index ended down 9.73 points at 1,605.96.

ZURICH — Slightly lower Swiss interest rates lent some support to a dull market. The All-Share SPI index fell 4.6 to 1,080.3 points. The Blue Chip SMI index lost 7.6 to 1,654.3.

PARIS — The bourse finished quietly weaker, shedding most of Friday's solid gains but showing resistance on the downside, traders said. The CAC-40 index ended down 15.82 points, or 0.86 per cent, at 1,834.45.

LONDON — Shares fell as Wall Street slipped from a mixed opening. The FTSE 100 shed 37.7 points to 2,486.6.

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## Fresh violence feeds mood of helplessness in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's government said it would consider reimposing a state of emergency and black leaders postponed settlement talks following a weekend of violence in which blacks killed blacks and whites fought whites.

Frustration and helplessness gripped the country Monday after renewed township battles in which 37 blacks were killed — most of them in a declared unrest area swarming with security forces. Police made six arrests and seized weapons.

"We cannot stop the violence. We can only control it," said Law and Order Ministry spokesman Brigadier Leon Mellett.

Law and Order Minister Adriana Vlok in a television interview said the emergency could be reimposed and political organisations banned again if negotiations failed to end the violence, mainly between supporters of

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the predominantly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

But the ANC leadership Monday postponed until Friday crisis talks on the township wars. Its deadline for the government to disarm the Zulus of their "traditional" spears and clubs and take effective action to halt the fighting, expires Thursday.

Alarms were also set jangling by the first significant clash between whites since the government began dismantling apartheid 16 months ago.

White-led police wounded two right-wing farmers among 2,000 who tried to evict black squatters trying to reclaim land taken from them under apartheid laws 13 years ago.

The leader of the white supremacist Boerestaat Party, Robert Van Tonder, said the government had crossed a line of no return and predicted another

Boer war if police ever again opened fire on their white brethren.

"It's the start of the revolution," one enraged farmer told Reuters.

Rampaging Zulus, disregarding government bans on dangerous weapons and sweeping aside increased security in the officially-designated unrest area, attacked Swanniesville squatter camp west of Johannesburg with assault rifles, clubs and spears Sunday, killed 27 people and destroying 112 dwellings.

At least 10 blacks were killed in political violence elsewhere in the country.

Police dismissing accusations of complicity in the Swanniesville attack. A spokesman said they had arrested six hostel-dwellers and confiscated guns and ammunition.

Vlok warned of the possible response to the continuing violence but said the government

would have to consider a clampdown extremely carefully "because this will cause this country a lot of damage."

Suppression of political activity and the mass arrests of thousands of blacks under the emergency — lifted only last year as part of President F.W. De Klerk's reforms — were among the worst features of the last years of apartheid and helped make South Africa an international pariah.

The ANC on Monday condemned the "brutal massacre" at Swanniesville and said there was clear police collusion in it.

"It is beyond belief that all of

this can take place in an unrest area without the knowledge of the police," it said in a statement.

The ANC says pro-apartheid rightists in the security forces, outside the control of De Klerk, are trying to destroy its chances of becoming South Africa's first black government in favour of the conservative Inkatha.



Roh Tae-woo  
S.Korea  
orders  
tough line  
on protests

## Floods kill 52 more in cyclone hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Floods brought fresh havoc to Bangladesh, killing 52 more people as a U.S. task force arrived to help save millions still battling for survival after last month's devastating cyclone.

Officials said the northeastern town of Sylibet was inundated after the Surma River burst its banks. Fifty-two people drowned in Sylibet and the Mouli Bazar area, bringing the death toll in floods to 200 in a week.

About one million people in the area were marooned by the rising waters, which have engulfed an area of 656 square kilometres, a Relief Ministry official said.

He said the authorities were alarmed that another cyclone could be on the way, only two weeks after the one that killed more than 138,000 people.

"We are really at our wit's end and really don't know where to fix our priority," the official said.

Local weather officials have spotted a depression in the Andaman Sea, 1,300 kilometres south of the port of Chittagong which took the brunt of last month's cyclone. They say the depression might turn into a cyclone which could hit the country in next two days.

## Liberals, Communists locked in tight contest in Nepal poll

KATHMANDU, (R) — Nepali Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai could lose his seat in a tight contest between Liberals and communists in the Himalayan kingdom's first free polls in 32 years.

As counting began Monday after Sunday's general election, the United Marxist-Leninist (UML) Party moved ahead in all five prestige contests in the capital, including in the constituency fought by Bhattarai.

The president called the crisis meeting on the eve of the funeral for student Kang Kyung-Dae, 20, which is expected to bring big demonstrations onto the streets of the capital. Police have said they will allow a short march, but threatened to block any attempt to take the coffin into the city centre.

"Some radical factions are causing social unrest aimed at eventually overthrowing the government by provoking students and workers using a university student's death as an excuse," a presidential spokesman quoted Roh said.

"On top of that, some irresponsible politicians are magnifying the problem for their political purpose," he said. "There must not be anything to provoke or beautify such radical activities."

As DLP leaders launched at the presidential mansion, scores of radical students invaded the party headquarters on the other side of the city, battoning police with steel pipes and clubs and smashing windows until they were overpowered. Police made 47 arrests.

The students scattered leaflets in the name of the Chondaehyop Nationwide Student Alliance, which Monday declared this week a period for a "life or death struggle" by South Korea's one million students to bring down the government and end what they call its "security-oriented rule."

As well as demanding Roh's resignation, the leaflets called for dissolution of the ruling party and the feared "paegoldan" plainclothes riot police, five of whom battered Kang to death with steel pipes as he fled a campus demonstration. They also sought punishment of government and police officials held responsible for the killing.

The Reverend Rafael Garcia Herreros, a popular television figure and charity fund raiser, said in a television interview that he was "absolutely sure" Escobar would turn himself in soon.

Asked why, the priest answered: "Because I had a long conversation with him and he is a more serious and more determined person than what one would imagine."

Authorities have accused Escobar of masterminding a year-long war against the government in which over 2,000 people were killed in assassinations and bombings.

The DLP issued a statement calling Monday's raid on the party headquarters "an anti-democratic and anti-academic rebellion which would be regarded as extreme red terrorism."

again in villages in 25 of the 205 constituencies returning candidates to the new parliament, the election commission announced Monday.

Most of the new polls were called due to political violence, in which at least 25 people were injured.

"In one case ballot papers were thrown into the village pond by excited voters," government spokesman Shailendra Raj Sharma said.

"In another, the polling officer couldn't unseal the ballot boxes for voting. He tried and tried all day."

The commission is still awaiting ballot boxes from many hill villages that can only be reached on foot.

Kathmandu voters were spellbound by state-run television as it slowly updated the vote count in contests between Nepal's best-known ex-dissidents.

## Soviet parliament cuts navy service to 2 years

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet parliament cut military service in the navy from three years to two and approved an experiment to staff ships partly with volunteers.

The reduction in the length of compulsory service brings the navy, founded by Tsar Peter the Great in the 18th century, into line with the army and air force.

The students scattered leaflets in the name of the Chondaehyop Nationwide Student Alliance, which Monday declared this week a period for a "life or death struggle" by South Korea's one million students to bring down the government and end what they call its "security-oriented rule."

Colonel-General Grigory Kritsostoyev, deputy chief of Armed Forces General Staff, told parliament the experiment with voluntary service would run from 1991 to 1994.

Under the scheme, ordinary seamen and petty officers in four large naval units will be recruited on a contract system. Contracts will be signed for two and a half years after the first six months of active duty are completed.

The experiment will provide vital information on whether it is possible to form a professional army in the Soviet Union, Kritsostoyev said.

Colonel-General Anatoly Lukyanov had no such doubts. "A professional army is born," he declared, when the results of the voting were announced.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union destroyed its last SS-20 medium-range nuclear missile Sunday, ending a three-year process set in motion by an arms reduction pact with the United States.

"The last Soviet RSD-10 missile, better known in the West as the SS-20, has been destroyed," the official Soviet News Agency, TASS, said in a report from Kapustin Yar, a testing range in southern Russia.

Under the U.S.-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty, signed in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev, both sides agreed to demolish 2,600 missiles with ranges between 300 and 3,400 miles (480 and 5,470 km).

The pact, with a June 1 deadline for implementation, was the first of the nuclear age to require destruction of existing systems.

The United States completed dismantling U.S. missiles covered by the treaty earlier this year.

"We are indeed exterminating the deadly weapons that can do great damage to mankind," Col. Gen. A.P. Volkov, first deputy commander of Soviet missile troops, told Soviet television.

Also on hand at the destruction ceremony was Maj. Gen. Robert Parker, director of the U.S. ONI Inspection Agency.

The Soviet television news programme "Vremya" reported that the Soviet Union destroyed 1,846 missiles covered by the INF treaty.

The treaty "laid the groundwork for the process that finally put an end to the cold war era," TASS military analyst Vladimir Chernyshev said in a commentary distributed Sunday.

## Guard halts woman driver — 'sorry, ma'am'

LONDON (R) — A security guard got the shock of his life on Sunday when he realised the woman driver he stopped was none other than Queen Elizabeth. Carl Shrimpton flagged down the queen as she drove into horse trials near her Windsor Castle home, west of London. "I was under strict orders to make sure no one came into the show without a proper pass," embarrassed Shrimpton told the Daily Mirror newspaper. "When the car pulled up next to me I got a real shock — the queen was the woman driving."

"My God, it's Her Majesty," gasped a car park attendant. Buckingham Palace said the queen often drove herself around the Windsor area.

Azerbaijan because it is staunchly Communist and plans to sign Gorbachev's new union treaty.

Azerbaijan's government, in contrast, is anti-Communist and wants to secede from the Soviet Union.

One by one, eight Armenian-populated villages on both sides of the border have been surrounded and disarmed — sometimes brutally — by the army and special Interior Ministry troops.

No such action has been taken against Azerbaijani villages.

Interior Minister Boris Pugo told the Supreme Soviet legislature last Tuesday that the troops were trying to prevent bloodshed by carrying out President Mikhail Gorbachev's July 1990 order to disarm "illegal armed bands."

But neither Pugo nor any other top Kremlin official has explained why the soldiers are disarming only Armenians, not Azerbaijanis as well. Both sides are believed to harbour thousands of militants armed with automatic rifles, grenade launchers, armoured vehicles and even helicopters.

Geography is an ancient and immutable factor in the dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Anatoly Shabad, a Russian Republic lawmaker on a fact-finding tour of the embattled region, told the Associated Press he believed the Kremlin was siding with

the Black and Caspian Seas.

Matalibov expressed satisfaction that "the leadership of the Soviet Union is now performing

its constitutional duty to the people of Azerbaijan, ensuring the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our republic," according to TASS, the Soviet News Agency.

Hostility between Armenia, a mainly Christian republic of 3.3 million people, and Azerbaijan, a mostly Muslim republic of 7 million, goes back centuries. It involves conflicting claims to land and water, as well as religious and cultural differences.

From the air, Armenian and Azerbaijani villages are immediately distinguishable. The Armenians are primarily farmers, with large gardens around their homes and orderly rows of crops around their settlements. The Azerbaijanis are primarily shepherds, with animals in their courtyards and sheep or cattle grazing around each village.

During the civil war that followed the 1917 revolution, all three of the Transcaucasian republics — Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan — declared independence. They are south of the Caucasus Mountains, between the Black and Caspian Seas.

After signing an alliance with Turkey in early 1920, the Bolsheviks invaded Transcaucasia and

conquered Azerbaijan by May of that year, Armenia by December and Georgia by April 21.

The borders of the three republics were set by the Kremlin in 1923 according to the ethnic makeup of various villages, with little regard to the future. The frontier zig-zags across hillsides and winds through valleys, rarely following a straight course for more than a kilometre.

Complicating the situation are a number of enclaves, or so-called autonomous regions, like islands in the middle of hostile territory. There are Armenian enclaves in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijani enclaves in Armenia.

The recent violence began in 1988 over the largest enclave, Nagorno-Karabakh. In the 18th century, it was a separate Khanate, or Muslim principedom. Since 1923, it has been legally controlled by Azerbaijan, although most of its 160,000 people are Armenian.

Fighting also has been fierce in Nakhichevan, a 5,490-square-kilometre (2,120-square-mile) Azerbaijani region sandwiched between western Armenia and Turkey, far from the rest of Azerbaijan.

After signing an alliance with Turkey in early 1920, the Bolsheviks invaded Transcaucasia and

then placed under house arrest on April 30 at her villa in Cerveteri, 30 miles (50 kilometres) north of Rome. The court revoked the house arrest. The charge carried a maximum sentence of eight years in prison, and prosecutor sought a four-year prison term.

## COLUMN

Fans pay cash tribute to Britain's TV time-lords

LONDON (R) — Six hundred people packed a London auction room to buy memorabilia from the British cult Sci-Fi television series Doctor Who, shown in more than 60 countries worldwide. Fans bought costumes, ray-guns and other technical gear from the 27-year-old science fiction programme about Doctor Who — a wizard-like "time lord" wandering through time and space to reach his own planet.

Costumes of Cybermen, Silurian humanoid reptiles, Savitar sea-devils and a large worm-like alien called a Tractor were all under the hammer. But the prize catch for the show's addicts, who call themselves "Who-ies," were two models of a dalek, a robot which in popular British culture has come to epitomise evil. Its monotone, electronic voice has called

generations of young fans as it screaches "exterminate, exterminate" at its victims. "It's the ultimate, isn't it?" said David Melven, 29, who paid £6,000 (\$11,000) for a dalek.

"You can put a price on it," he said of his new toy, which looks like an upside-down dustbin with a dome-like lid. "It's a classic example of British television. Doctor Who is probably the most popular show, what else is there," said Melven.

**Campaign launched for better pesticide labels**

LONDON (R) — Supporters of an international campaign want the World Health Organisation (WHO) to set up a labelling system for pesticides used on food. The campaign, backed by 11 British voluntary groups, calls for foods treated with pesticides to be labelled with a "P" and given a number that could be understood by consumers and retailers around the world. Parents for Safe Food, one of the groups involved, said this year one billion gallons (4.5 billion litres) of pesticides would be sprayed on British land and 40 million sheep

to be dipped in pesticide. "With retailers beginning to introduce their own pesticide reduction schemes and eco-labels, it is essential that consumers have a simple scheme that allows them to cut through the verbiage," said Dr. Tim Lang, director of Parents for Safe Food. But the British Agrochemicals Association (BACA), which represents pesticide manufacturers, said the system might lead to confusion.

"Imagine the information needed on a can or vegetable soup of fruit salad from all the many and various crops that went into that dish," said BACA Director John Parker. He said the industry appreciated that consumers needed information but there was now a choice to buy organic produce and it would be very costly to make the system work.

**Guard halts woman driver — 'sorry, ma'am'**

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"My God, it's Her Majesty," gasped a car park attendant. Buckingham Palace said the queen often drove herself around the Windsor area.

The treaty "laid the groundwork for the process that finally put an end to the cold war era," TASS military analyst Vladimir Chernyshev said in a commentary distributed Sunday.

**Italian actress gets suspended sentence**

ROME (AP) — Italian film star Laura Antonelli was given a 3 1/2-year suspended sentence and fined 24 million lire (\$19,000) for possession of 36 grams (1/4 ounce) of cocaine that police found at her home. The actress was released at the end of the two-hour court appearance. She had been jailed for three days after her arrest last month and then placed under house arrest on April 30 at her villa in Cerveteri, 30 miles (50 kilometres) north of Rome.